Evidence Synthesis in the Biological and Natural Sciences

Survey Ethics Statement

You are invited to participate in this study that investigates how researchers as naturalists, ecologists, and biologists use evidence synthesis as a research tool that includes providing consent.

It is important to note that participation is voluntary, refusal to participate will involve no penalty and you may discontinue participation in the survey portion of this study at any time without penalty prior to clicking on the survey "submit" button.

If you wish, you may decline to answer any of the five survey questions by selecting or commenting "Decline to answer." Further, you may decide to withdraw from this study at any time and may do so without any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. The survey portion of this research investigation involves minimal risk. The questionnaire does not request participant contact information and if provided will be redacted from the data and discarded at the completion of this part of the study no later than September 1, 2026. Again, participation is voluntary without compensation.

Data collected as a result of the online survey will be aggregated, stripped of self-identifying data, and not be coded to identify individual participants. As such, once survey instruments have been submitted there will be no way to redact individual data from this part of the study.

Completing the survey as soon as possible and no later than February 1, 2026. It should take less than 15 minutes to answer several multiple choice/open and additional demographic survey questions.

Survey participants are invited to participate in a virtual follow up 30-minue focus group or interview session to discuss survey results. Engaging in this follow up phase of this study may result in self-reflection or learning more about how researchers use evidence synthesis research methodologies. Additionally, participants may learn how academic librarians supporting research reflect on their roles, qualifications, knowledge, and expertise.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Brock University Social Science Research Ethics Board (SREB) file 25-118 - GORDON. If you have any comments or concerns about this research contact the principal investigator or the Brock SREB to learn more about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office @ (905) 688-5550 Ext. 3035 or email reb@brocku.ca.

Thanks for your participation.

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